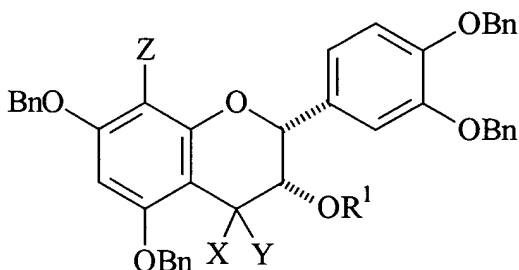


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-21 (canceled)

Claim 22. (currently amended) A compound of formula:



wherein R¹ is a ~~silyl-based~~ silyl protecting group or a ~~benzyl-type~~ benzyl protecting group, and wherein X and Y are independently hydrogen or hydroxy[[,]] or X and Y together are oxygen, and wherein Z is ~~hydrogen~~ or a halogen.

Claim 23 (canceled)

Claim 24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (new) The compound of Claim 22, wherein R¹ is the silyl protecting group, wherein X and Y are independently hydrogen or hydroxy, and wherein the halogen is bromine.

Claim 26 (new) The compound of Claim 25, wherein the silyl group is a *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl group.

Claim 27 (new) The compound of Claim 22, wherein R¹ is the benzyl protecting group, wherein X and Y are independently hydrogen or hydroxy, and wherein the halogen is bromine.

Claim 28 (new) The compound of Claim 22, wherein R¹ is the silyl protecting group, wherein X and Y together are oxygen, and wherein the halogen is bromine.

Claim 29 (new) The compound of Claim 28, wherein the silyl group is a *tert*-butyldimethylsilyl group.

Claim 30 (new) The compound of Claim 22, wherein R¹ is the benzyl protecting group, wherein X and Y together are oxygen, and wherein the halogen is bromine.